

Johnson Stresses Wakefield Defense

11-3-54

By "DUCK" DUCKSON

Raining just as hard in South Arlington as it did on the North side, Wakefield head coach Dick "Tank" Johnson dispensed with outdoor practice yesterday, and took his charges in the school gym where they went through abbreviated chores.

Stressing mainly defensive and blocking assignments, the Warriors continued to point up for Friday night's encounter with Mount Vernon on the latter's field at 8:00 p.m.

Should the weather permit, tomorrow's practice sessions will enter a new page in the squad "firsts," as they will go under the lights on the South Four Mile Run field, which will give the team members an idea of what their initial night encounter under game conditions will be.

Highly impressed with the work of the defensive unit against the George Washington JV last Friday, coach Johnson and line coach Walt Schulte are taking extra time

in showing the boys proper blocking assignments on opposing linemen and secondary defensive linebackers. Having proven they know all the fundamentals, the linemen are now taking lessons in the finer points of high school football.

Bill Edmondston and Vic Blue, the Green and Gold's other two hard working coaches, have their jobs cut out with just three days before the Mount Vernon battle, as they prepare the backfield units and the junior varsity, many of whom may be called upon for action. Injuries have hurt the backfield somewhat, and replacements for the replacements are the main problems.

Henry Mayo, first string quarterback, is still bothered with a bruised hand, while Al Lederle, defensive end who played both ways last Friday, has not fully recovered from a bruised leg. Frank Stevens, regular offensive end, was lost to the squad when he suffered a kidney ailment two weeks ago. Returning however, are Ed and Steve Hall, both who had been out due to recent injuries. Ed, a defensive end, and Steve, a hard running halfback, will give the team added prestige this Friday night, and will help offset the absence of Whitey Edwards, who will be sidelined for the game due to some pulled muscles in his shoulder received in some rugged defensive work last week.